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PREFACE

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PREFACE

In this supplementary issue of *African Study Monographs*, the postcranial skeleton of *Kenyapithecus* will be studied as the sixth report of the research project "Study of the Tertiary Hominoids and Their Paleoenvironments in East Africa". *Kenyapithecus* had been entitled a hominid for more than a quarter of a century since the first discovery in 1962. With an increase of fossil specimens, however, it has become clear that *Kenyapithecus* can no longer be classified as a hominid. Recently, a fair amount of *Kenyapithecus* postcrania have been discovered from Nachola, northern Kenya. This discovery is one of the most fruitful results that the Joint Japan-Kenya Expedition has attained since the beginning of the project. Although the locomotor behavior of *Kenyapithecus* has not been well known up to now, these new postcranial fossils shed a light to the poorly known locomotor repertoire of this hominoid.

This issue includes two articles. Rose and others present detailed descriptions of the fossils, comparisons with extant and extinct anthropoids, and functional characteristics. Nakatsukasa and others present three-dimensional morphometrics of the *Kenyapithecus* ulna and reveal a unique morphology of the sigmoid notch in Miocene hominoids. Both papers conclude that the locomotor repertoire of *Kenyapithecus* is dominated by arboreal quadrupedalism and vertical climbing with some presence of terrestriality. The study of *Kenyapithecus* locomotor behavior has just started. Based on a recent discovery from Maboko, an enhanced terrestriality of *Kenyapithecus* is argued. This is of interest because our preliminary analysis of the dentition reveals that Nachola specimens are discriminated from Maboko and Fort Ternan samples. Comparisons of specimens from different localities will greatly enrich our understanding of the behavioral adaptation of *Kenyapithecus* to the shrinking forests and increasing aridity through the middle Miocene in east Africa.

We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to the Government of Kenya, Director and staff of the Department of Paleontology of the National Museums of Kenya, and the chief and people in Nachola for their collaboration in this project. Financial support was obtained from the Ministry of Education, Science, and Culture of the Japanese Government. Many thanks go to the JSPS research station in Nairobi for their kind arrangements during the research periods in Kenya throughout the years.

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